

May 31, 1960

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STATINTL

DULLES TESTIMONY

Richard Harkness at 11:00 P. M., over WRC-TV (Washington):

MR. HARKNESS WAS SEEN ON THE TV SCREEN,
SEATED AT A DESK IN THE STUDIO.

HARKNESS: "Well, today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee under its Chairman, Senator William Fulbright of Arkansas heard our chief intelligence agency head, Allen W. Dulles, as its second witness in the U-2 plane and summit breakup inquiry. Well, today, differing from Secretary Rortor's testimony, no transcript was released from behind the closed committee doors which were guarded by police. Later, Senator Fulbright did make this public statement:

SENATOR FULBRIGHT WAS SEEN IN A FILM CLIP.

FULBRIGHT: "I really don't feel I can say anything about his actual testimony."

REPORTER: "I wonder if there's any feeling among some members of Congress that perhaps as a result of this U-2 incident that the treatment of the Central Intelligence Agency might change? How do you feel about that?"

FULBRIGHT: "I don't think so. I don't think it's—at least from my point of view, myself, I do not think the Intelligence Agency is to be criticized for decisions which I think they're not responsible for. I think they were carrying out activities which had been assigned to them. The questionable decisions were not taken by the Intelligence Agency but by political officers."

HARKNESS: "Then, presenting the administration's view on the summit breakup in Paris and how the administration should conduct itself now, Vice President Nixon addressed today the eight-nation Southeast Treaty Organization session here..."

HARKNESS: "And so, as a result of this day, especially the Dulles appearance on Capitol Hill, we really know very little more about the H-2 spy plane incident than we did before, but I am informed of this, that on one crucial question asked Mr. Dulles today he said that he would like time to submit his answer. Now the question was this, what was the (overwhelming?) importance of a U-2 plane flight on May 1 to justify such a risk just before the Summit meeting to be held in Paris? Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, says tonight that he will press for an answer."